

## Washington's Guest House for America's Notable "Callers."

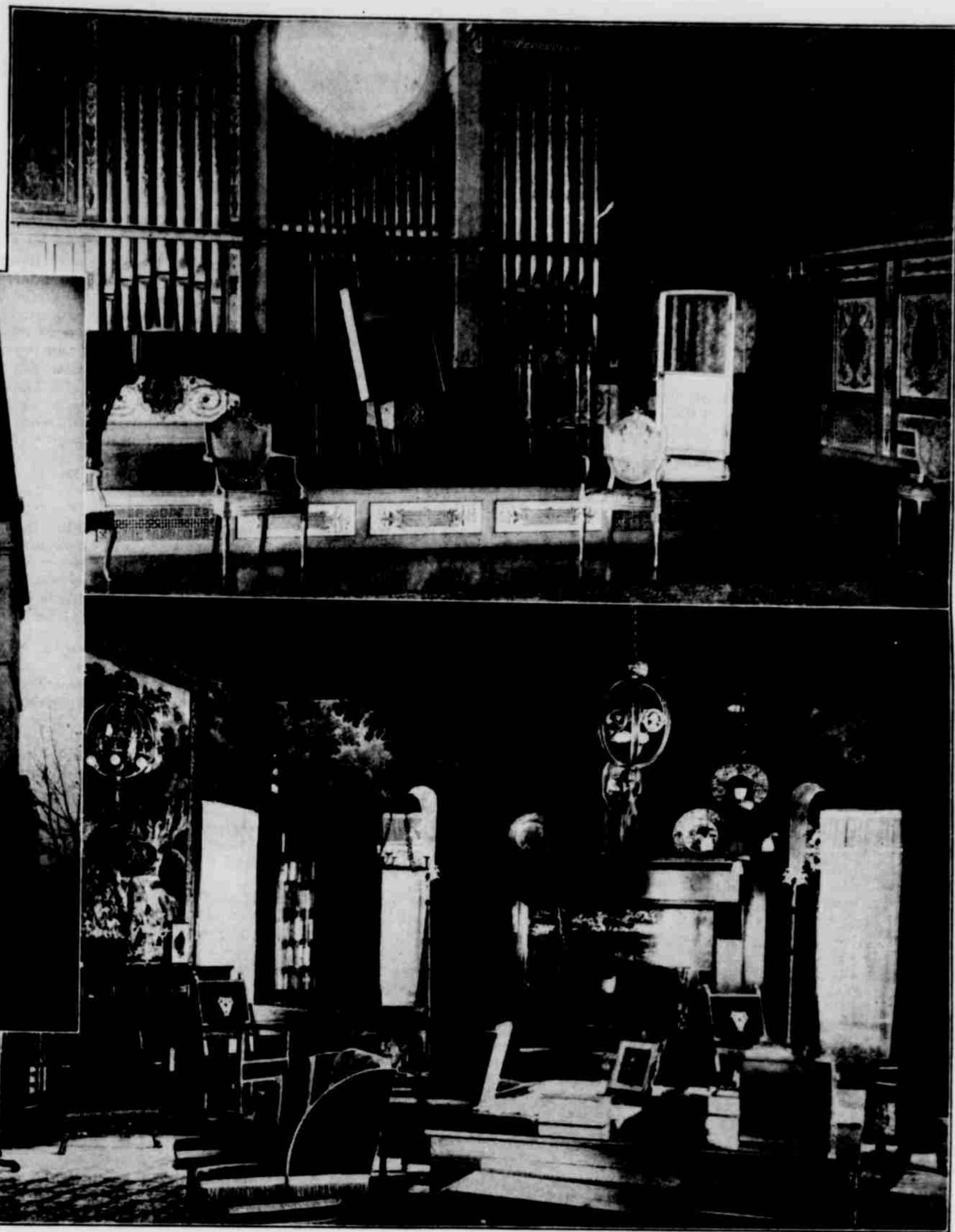


IN PARIS the home of a prince of the old régime was placed at the disposal of President Wilson. In Washington the guest apartments assigned to royalty and other notable visitors is more than likely to be the home of Breckinridge Long, assistant secretary of state, who lives at 2829 Sixteenth street, N. W.

The Breckinridge Long home is a very good illustration of the taste and luxury to be found behind some rather plain fronts. The building itself is not ornate, having an air of substance rather, and is heavily barred with iron below after the manner of most Washington residences where family life usually begins on the second floor. Latest of the notable guests in this house were the King and Queen of the Belgians, whom Mr. Long accompanied on their trip around the country. What surroundings royalty had in the capital of a democratic republic may be seen from the interiors at the right.

The upper photograph shows the music room with its beautiful pipe organ as a background and its little concert stage. A large rose window adds effectively to the organ's dignity as chief of the instruments. The white upright object at the right of the stage is milady's sedan chair of an earlier day when ladies went a-calling in carriages that were carried by servants. The side which shows in the picture is the glass paneled door.

A richer beauty is apparent in the furnishings of the living room, shown in the lower photograph. Here



are the books, the fireplace, the easy chairs, the cozy nooks of family comradeship, and around all a noble tapestry upon walls and ceiling. One fancies a king would find himself quite comfortable in this Washington home of a Missouri lawyer—for such was Mr. Long before the President called him to the capital.

Aside from the places of governmental and historical interest, the residences of Washington attract and interest the visitor. Many of them, of course, are associated with great names, but they also present against a very charming background the most representative specimens of American architectural taste and the various stages by which that taste has arrived at its present form. The White House undoubtedly has exercised an influence for simple dignity upon the whole city. The White House is American in all that it sig-

nifies. Within the same residential section, that is within a radius of miles, a flamboyant house would be daily rebuked by the presence of the White House. The older residences of Washington seem to embody a recognition of that fact, and the newer residences are not unmindful of it. Hence the "gingerbread" architecture so much affected by the newly rich is conspicuously absent from Washington. Simplicity, substance, dignity and sufficiency are the notes most seen. The backyard still lives in Washington—for in an older day Washington thought much of its back gardens, and always ate its Sunday dinner on the back porch—and the backyard is American, an inheritance from the Pilgrims. It is disappearing from the Eastern cities where every foot of ground represents a dizzy value, but fortunately it still remains in the West.

## Yap—Our Next Insular Possession!

YES, the name is Yap! And it has no reference to a dog, for Yap is an island in the Pacific Ocean, one of the Caroline group southeast of our island possession, Guam. In the average school atlas, Yap is represented by such a small dot that, unless a second glance is sent in its direction, or a magnifying glass is used, the island might easily be mistaken for a fly speck.

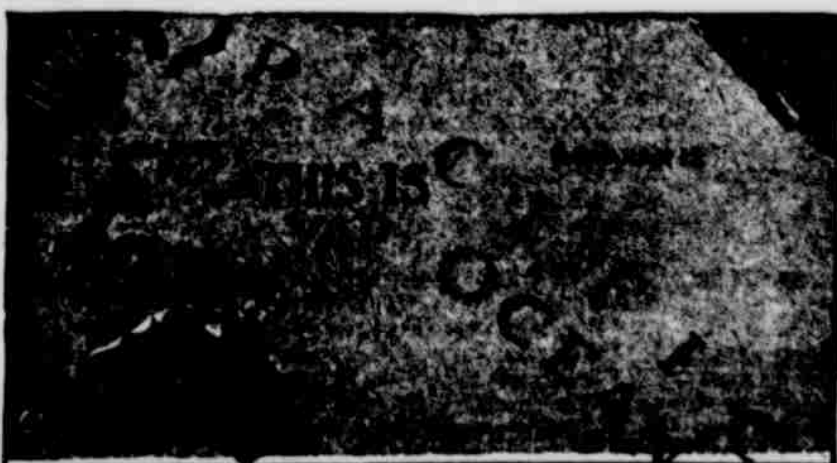
Just at present Yap means a great deal to the diplomatic circles in Washington. Originally a possession of Spain, the island was sold to Germany for \$5,000,000 in 1899, but since William Hohenzollern failed to keep his dinner date in Paris, and Germany's tremendous dream of world domination was pricked like a soap bubble, the United States has become more than a little interested in this miniature island. Guam has become an important coaling station, a mid-point for warships and steamers on the long Pacific voyage, and Yap may be used for similar purposes if the United States will take possession of it as part of Germany's price of failure.

The people of this new land, who may soon be our newest cousins, are probably more interesting and less civilized than any other possession owned by this country.

They are a sociable people among themselves. Every village in Yap has its clubhouse, and dancing not unlike the Hawaiian hula is part of their ceremonial method of entertainment. Domestic manners are free and easy in Yap. Husbands and wives do not quarrel when Mr. Miklig goes out for an evening with his men friends, for Mrs. Miklig goes to the women's clubs to

discuss, no doubt, like her more civilized sisters, the latest scandal.

Religion is a somewhat binding but hardly vital side of their existence. The natives are reasonably honest, though they invoke protection from a god of thieves. The Yaps say grace before meat, praying Tontop, deity of food, to bless them and their food. The tabu system holds firm sway here. If women and



children should presume to eat with men, evil spirits would cause their ankles to swell and afflict them with elephantitis.

As everywhere else in the world there is a caste system bound by the rules of a powerful tabu. There are magicians, nobles, rich men and slaves. It is the simplest thing in the world to tell who are the wealthy

men of Yap. One has only to look in their front doorways to find most of their worldly wealth.

Unfortunately, there is no mint on the island, so the medium of exchange consists in disks of limestone, or anagonite, ranging from six inches to twelve feet in diameter. Of course, small change is made of pearl shells strung on hibiscus fibre in bunches of twenty. A prosperous Yap leaves most of his wealth piled up in front of his door with no fear that it may be stolen because the largest pieces of stone money may weigh six tons, ranging down to a few pounds. This currency is called fé. If a man's creditors seized his house and lands for debt, nothing less than a fleet of heavy motor trucks could transport the debtor's small change.

The natives live in well-constructed houses with wooden frames, thatched with palm leaves. They fish as an avocation and for profit. They export copra, ivory, nuts, pearls and turtle shell. Within historic times the natives of Yap were cannibals, and even though they have given up that practice, they have not overcome their dislike of white men. Physically, the people of Yap are strong, but decidedly ugly. Like all people of the Pacific Islands they are expert swimmers and divers.

Just how these people will welcome a change of government is a question. It is hardly likely, however, that it will be necessary to use strength in persuading them that it is for their own benefit. They have learned that contact with the world brings money, and that money, even stone money, means luxury.

Yap is about seventy square miles in size and has about 8,000 inhabitants.